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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text, in English and Russian, of a joint statement of the United States Department of State and the Ministry of External Relations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on El Salvador issued on 2 December 1991 (see annex). We also take the opportunity to reiterate the appreciation of our Governments for your skilful and tireless efforts on behalf of the cause of peace in El Salvador.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Secretary-General.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
United States of America

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Deputy Foreign Minister
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

ANNEX

Joint Union of Soviet Socialist Republics-United States of America statement on El Salvador: peace talks

Having reviewed the situation at the ongoing talks on the peaceful settlement of the crisis in El Salvador, the USSR Ministry of External Relations and the United States Department of State have agreed upon the following joint statement:

"The efforts made over the past year by the opposing Salvadoran parties towards ending the armed confrontation and assuring conditions in which all Salvadorans will be guaranteed equal, non-discriminatory participation in internal political processes have produced a number of important decisions. These provide realistic prospects for achieving early agreements to end the protracted conflict in this Central American country.

Of particular significance were the agreements reached during the April and September negotiating rounds between representatives of the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN leadership, conducted respectively in Mexico City and New York, with major contributions by United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and his personal representative at these talks, Alvaro de Soto.

The recent steps to terminate offensive combat operations taken by the Government and the FMLN have helped create favourable conditions for the success of the meeting between the representatives of the Government and the FMLN being held in Mexico.

The USSR and the United States believe that it is important that both the Government and the FMLN observe their announced commitments in order to sustain the emerging constructive approach. The USSR and the United States strongly urge the Salvadoran parties and the United Nations to extend every effort to achieve by the end of the year the goals set by the participants in the talks themselves: to agree on remaining issues; to reach agreement on an internationally supervised cease-fire; and to begin to implement measures aimed at national reconciliation. They note that a United Nations-supervised cease-fire is urgently required to consolidate the progress that has been made and to put a definitive end to the conflict.

The USSR and the United States declare their intention to continue to provide all possible support for a peaceful resolution of the crisis in El Salvador. They urge all the interested States and the United Nations to do everything possible to secure the earliest possible achievement of these objectives."